Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY. Senate Sergeant-At-Arms State Capitol - B35 South P.O.Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882	but <u>not</u> speaking:  Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:	Registering in Favor:  but <u>not</u> speaking:	or:	(City and Zip Code)  (Adding Forestion of Independent (Representing) Susiness (Wisconsin)	(NAME) (NAME) (NAME) (Street Address or Route Number)	DIN CL	DATE: 3/7.99 BILL NO.8 /
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# SENATE HEARING SLIP

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

P.O.Box 7882

**State Capitol - B35 South** Senate Sergeant-At-Arms

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State Capitol - B35 South

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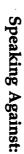
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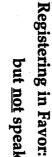
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### Vote Record

### Senate Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs

Date:		Seconded by: Clearinghouse Rule: Appointment: Other:
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Be recommended for: Passage Introduction Adoption Rejection		Indefinite Postponement Tabling Concurrence Nonconcurrence Confirmation
Committee Member Sen. Rodney Moen, Chair Sen. Roger Breske Sen. Judy Robson Sen. Jon Erpenbach Sen. Robert Welch Sen. Brian Rude Sen. Gary Drzewiecki		Aye No Absent Not Voting
	Totals: _	

Motion Carried	Motion Failed	

### Vote Record

### Senate Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs

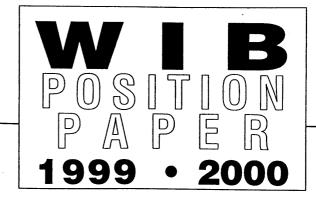
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	Totals:					

Motion Carried	Motion Failed	



FROM: WAYNE COREY

Executive Director



### **SB 1 HIGHLIGHTS**

### PRIVATE EMPLOYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE PLAN

PREPARED FOR: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, UTILITIES VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Other Interested Parties

DATE:

March 17, 1999

The opportunity for significant health insurance reform is here. The Wisconsin Legislature can make quality health insurance more accessible and more affordable for the employees of smaller businesses in 1999 by passing into law Senate Bill 1.

The lead authors of the legislation are Senator Rodney Moen (D-Whitehall) and Representative Terry Musser (R-Melrose). The bills enjoy strong bipartisan support with a majority of each house signed on as co-authors of one or both of the bills.

The private employer health care coverage plan in SB 1 and Assembly Bill 63 is based on the market concept of "pooling". Large numbers of small employers and employees are grouped together to create a significantly large purchasing "pool" so that rates are forced downward through a combination of lower administrative cost and competition for market share among carriers and health care providers.

SB 1 is NOT government health insurance. It does not create a mandated health insurance program. Businesses will be free to participate or not, as they choose. Participating businesses will continue to purchase health insurance through insurance agents, representing health insurance carriers that choose to be part of the program.

The key to the program is <u>competition</u>. By having each participating carrier put a price on identical packages, consumers can see those prices side by side and pick the coverage and carrier they wish. Employees will have the option of coverage through several plans.

We are small business free enterprise people. We appreciate any effort to increase competition in the marketplace and SB 1 will do that. Competition is good for consumers!

Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Inc.

In brief, the structure works in this fashion:

The Department of Employee Trust Funds will create several health insurance plans. Presumably, these plans will include preferred provider and health maintenance organization options. Those plans will be submitted to the Private Employer Health Care Coverage Board, which will have the authority to approve the plans.

The DETF will solicit and enter into contracts with participating insurance carriers.

The plans, when marketed, will be sold only by insurance agents. The DETF will not sell the plans but may publicize the program.

Rates for the program will be published annually by county and by any other factor the DETF finds appropriate.

Participating employers must make the program available to any employee working an average of 30 hours per week or more.

Participating employers must agree to pay at least 50% of the lowest premium rate available to an employee. The participating employee will have the option of several insurance plans. Employer financial participation is based on the cost of the lowest plan available to the employee.

The program must be made available to any employer and employee without regard to an individual or group's health or claims experience.

The DETF is expected to contract for the management of the program. State participation will be sunsetted in 2007.

In addition to these factors which are identical in SB 1 and AB 63, Representative Musser will prepare an amendment to provide a mechanism to include in the program any self-employed individual engaged in a business enterprise in this state, including a farm business, who has one or more dependents. This amendment will bring farm families and other self-employed persons into the pool. Development of SB 1 included extensive discussion about the fragility of the individual health insurance market. The objective of this amendment is to include in the pool two or more people in family units who wish to participate.

The private employer health care coverage plan contained in SB 1 and AB 63 is based on The Wisconsin Health Access Reform Program, created by Wisconsin Independent Businesses in 1994. The WHARP package is, itself, based in large part on the Health Insurance Plan of California, which has enjoyed an excellent track record of providing quality health insurance at lower rates for small businesses, including many firms that did not provide health insurance for their employees prior to the development of HIPC.

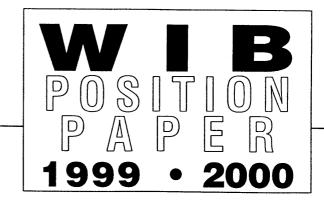
Wisconsin Independent Businesses believes SB 1 and it's Assembly counterpart are carefully crafted bills that can make health insurance more accessible and more affordable for the owners and employees of smaller businesses.

On behalf of the 50,000 people who own 16,000 businesses and 9,000 farms served by WIB, we are grateful for your interest in this legislation.



FROM: WAYNE COREY

Executive Director



### **WIB 1999 HEALTH INSURANCE SURVEY**

**Preliminary Report** 

Survey conducted March 1999

Health Insurance Plan Results

83.71% Have a health insurance plan for full-time employees.

34.35% Have changed insurance carriers in the past two years.

26.75% Have taken a higher deductible in the past year.

10.03% Have asked employees to payer a higher percentage of

the cost in the past year.

83.33% Reported increased health insurance costs in the last year.

18.84% Is the average rate of increase reported in the last year.

**Deductible Information** 

\$ 916.59 Average single person deductible.

\$1,734.77 Average family deductible.

Firm Information

Firms with health insurance programs:

Number of Employees: Average: 18.81 Median: 8

Firms without health insurance programs:

Number of Employees: Average: 4.23 Median: 3

Source: WIB 1999 Health Insurance Survey, reflecting responses from owners of 730 Businesses. The survey is ongoing.

Wisconsin Independent Businesses, Inc.

111 South Hamilton Street

Madison, WI 53703

Telephone 608-255-0373